

Simplicity #2. Simple Homes

Matthew 6:19-21,26

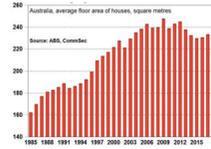
Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

AUSSIES HAVE THE HIGHEST MEDIAN WEALTH IN THE WORLD

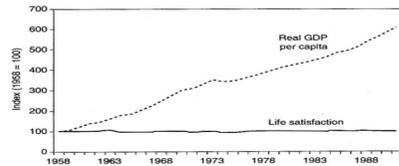
According to the *Credit Suisse's 2018 Global Wealth Report* the median wealth surpasses even Switzerland. "We are not just very wealthy, but also our wealth inequality is much lower than other developed countries." - Sydney Morning Herald, 2018-10-19

AUSSIE HOUSES ARE 2.4 TIMES THE SIZE THEY USED TO BE

100 square metres in 1958. 240 square metres in 2016. More kitchen space, more living space, more lounge area, more undercover parking than ever. And the average Aussie today has better health than a King in the time of Jesus.



AUSSIES ARE RICHER BUT NO HAPPIER AND LESS SECURE



From *Affluenza* by Clive Hamilton and Richard Denniss [comparison of Real GDP per capita and Life Satisfaction... Once you have the basics like clothes and food, then more stuff, more income, more money does not increase life satisfaction. The more we define ourselves in terms of what we have, the poorer we are in everything else.

AUSSIES DON'T UNDERSTAND HEDONIC ADAPTATION!

Hedonic adaptation is the tremendous human capacity to adapt to new relationships, jobs, and wealth, with the result that even such rewarding life changes yield fewer and fewer rewards with time. - The Myths of Happiness by Sonja Lyubomirsky

JESUS SIMPLY ASKS, "WHAT ARE YOU TREASURING?"

Matthew 6:19-21. Do not ___ for yourselves ___ on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but ___ for yourselves ___ of heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your ___ is, there your heart will be also.

THESAUROS: treasure, a collection of treasure, what one works on, fills the mind with, collects, protects.
THESAURIZO: to treasure something, to collect, store up, and protect.

Each of us might define 'treasure' a little differently – that's the point – it's what we work on most.

TREASURE IS: WHAT WE WORK ON, FILL OUR MIND WITH, AND PROTECT FROM LOSS.

Treasure isn't what you look inward to see that you value. It's what you look outwards to see that you are working on most, filling your mind with, worrying about, and working to maintain and protect from loss. You might think you value one thing most, but your treasure is what you're working on most!

WHAT YOU SPEND TIME ON SHAPES YOUR HEART

WHAT YOU FILL YOUR MIND WITH SHAPES YOUR HEART

WHAT YOU PROTECT FROM LOSS SHAPES YOUR HEART

(WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL BE YOUR HEART!)

Jesus asks a question that's going to take some time. It requires you to sit and be. It requires a good hard look at yourself. What do think about when you wake up at night? What do you spend most of your time on? What do you dream of? What do you worry about? That's what you really treasure!

THE WORLD SHAPES YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

JESUS WORKS FROM THE INSIDE OUT – SO REMEMBER THAT GOD TREASURES YOU!

To truly be free in life you need to know that you are treasured, deep in your heart. You need to face your own flaws, your own imperfection and sin honestly. And then to know that despite your flaws, you are treasured. This is the story of Jesus. That what God would give his life for is you. Jesus is the proof that God treasures you. In him is all the treasure you will ever need. Let his love redefine you!

For Discussion & Reflection This Week

TAKE A MONTH WERE YOU SHOP FOR NOTHING EXCEPT ESSENTIALS LIKE FOOD.

Our culture has conditioned us to shop for enjoyment and fulfillment. Even when we log on to Google to search, there's shopping right there. Facebook is full of shopping. Some are actually 'harmlessly' addicted to looking at online products. In this season of Advent (the leadup to Christmas), why not take a whole month where you commit to no online shop browsing? A common spiritual discipline is called 'fasting'. It means giving up something in order to reflect and pray about what really matters. You could fast from shopping for a month and only buy essentials. It would be good for your budget too!

PAUSE AND WAIT. WAIT BEFORE BUYING. WAIT BEFORE SPENDING.

If you feel you need to buy something. Pause and wait. Get off those online stores. Take a total break from eBay, Amazon, Etsy or whatever it is that you end up browsing online. Stop the obsessive 'product researching' online and sit with it for a month.

BEFORE BUYING, SPENDING, OR BORROWING, WORK OUT WHAT YOUR MOTIVATION REALLY IS

Often we do things without realizing our deeper motivations. We might acquire things because everyone around us does. We might be buying because it distracts us from pain, sadness, loneliness or emptiness. We might be spending because it makes us feel 'in control'. Take some time to reflect on what you're really getting from spending. Discuss this with your spiritual friends or your Life Group at Immanuel.

GIVE YOUR GOOD, NEW, NICE STUFF AWAY (NOT JUST YOUR OLD RUBBISH)

Sometimes people give away their old stuff (after having bought nice new stuff) and act as if they are terrifically generous. Challenge yourself to give things that are new and quality – not just the hand-me-downs! One key way to challenge of materialism is to sponsor a child with Compassion Australia.

KEEP YOUR POSSESSIONS SIMPLE AND DON'T HOARD MORE THAN YOU NEED.

Go through what you have 'treasured' or hoarded up. Give it away to Vinnies or people in need. If you have three of something, rationalize it down to one. Think about simplicity in your home.

RELATIONSHIPS OVER PROPERTY, PEOPLE OVER MONEY!

Often we say we're working hard to provide for family or those we love. Often we say that we're just working hard now but in a few years time we will rest up and focus more on people. But will we? Audit your life and ask yourself, "where do I need to put relationships over property and people over money?"